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# Kennedy: CIA Didn't Act Alone

by ARTHUR GREENSPAN

Sen. Robert F. Kennedy today defended the CIA in its secret subsidization of student and other groups, saying final decision on such plans came from "the executive branch in the Eisenhower, Kennedy and Johnson Administrations."

Conceding that he was "getting into another controversy," the Senator said it was unfair for the CIA to "take the rap" for such policies.

He said, "These basic decisions were not made unilaterally by the CIA."

"All relevant government agencies are contracted for their approval. That includes the White House."

"If the policy was wrong, it was not the product of the CIA, but of each administration."

Kennedy said in a Washington interview that "we must not forget that we are not dealing with a dream world, but with a very tough adversary. I think it unfair that the CIA should take a rap on this."

"Any of these decisions made by the CIA had to have been approved by others."

The Senator added: "The CIA performs many useful functions to protect the security of the country. It has some of the most able, dedicated public servants in the government."

Kennedy's defense of the super-secret agency came as CIA Director Helms told a secret session of a Senate "watchdog" committee that the CIA was cancelling subsidies it had been giving to some private

characteristically, Helms

maintained silence as he walked briskly from the meeting, brushing aside question. But Sen. Russell (D-Cal.), chairman of the panel that oversees the CIA, told reporters about the monetary cutback.

It was recalled that such a cutback was ordered by President Johnson last week, when the CIA scandal first became public.

## NSA Funds Out

Russell said it "might be well for the CIA to sever financial connection with a great number of organizations, adding, 'In my opinion, the support . . . will be withdrawn because it would be a waste to continue.'"

He declined to list all the organizations involved, but did indicate that it would be a waste of money to continue to subsidize the National Student Assn.

While the uproar continued on college campuses across the nation, two Senators urged openly-financed funds for student groups.

Majority Leader Mansfield

called President Johnson "wise" for ordering the CIA to quit subsidizing student groups, and pointed out that the State and Welfare Depts. have enough money to send students to conferences abroad on "an open and above-board basis."

Sen. Javits (R-N. Y.), speaking at the University of Wisconsin, again criticized the "secrecy" of the CIA-student link, but added, "If the money is needed, and perhaps it is,

then let's give it openly." At Columbia yesterday, 200 jeering students chanted "the CIA must go!" during a disciplinary hearing for 16 student sit-ins who protested CIA recruiting on campus Feb. 8.

After the closed-door hearing, the students' lawyer, Carl Rachlin, quoted Columbia placement director Alexander Clark as saying he would still permit CIA recruiting "knowing what he knows about the CIA today."

Rachlin said, "If that is the university's position, then the moral issue is very clear."

The New York Newspaper Guild last night joined the American Newspaper Guild and its statewide council in endorsing the union's international seminar program and the use of foundation funds to support it. The ANG has denied knowingly accepting more than \$1,000,000 in CIA funds channeled through foundations.